



Superior Court of California County of Riverside

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Superior Court of California, County of Riverside

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Riverside County Superior Court Hires Three New Court Commissioners

Riverside County – The Riverside County Superior Court recently hired three new court commissioners to join its bench of judicial officers. The new commissioners are Lori Hunt Kennedy, J. Michael McCoy, and Bernard Schwartz. Ms. Hunt Kennedy currently hears family law matters in the downtown Riverside Family Court. Mr. McCoy also hears family law and is assigned to Indio's Larson Justice Center. Mr. Schwartz presides over a misdemeanor pretrial and arraignment calendar in Riverside's Robert Presley Hall of Justice.

Kennedy - hired to fill a vacancy left by long-time Court Commissioner Joyce Manulis Reikes (who retired), Commissioner Kennedy joined the court in September after several years in private practice with the law firm Pozza & Hunt (1996 to present) that concentrated on family law, criminal defense, juvenile law, bankruptcy, and civil litigation. In her practice, Commissioner Kennedy acted as a Judge Pro-Tem for the pro-per calendar in Temecula as well as worked as a child advocate representing minors in family law matters. She received her Bachelors Degree from Cal State Fullerton in 1989 and her JD in 1993 from Western State University. While attending law school, Commissioner Kennedy received several awards that included serving as the Law Review Article Editor, receiving a Distinguished Student Award, and winning three academic scholarships.

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Commissioner Kennedy will be presiding over the Family Law calendar at the new Southwest Justice Center when that facility opens in January of 2003. She and her husband, Christopher, have a daughter, Taylor, and are eagerly awaiting the birth of their son at the end of this month.

McCoy – selected to replace Court Commissioner Warren Camp, Commissioner McCoy received his Bachelors Degree from Southern California College, received his Masters Degree from the University of Redlands, and earned his JD from Western State University where he received two American Jurisprudence Awards. Since 1988, he had been a sole practitioner whose practice involved civil litigation, criminal defense, and family law matters and eventually limited his practice exclusively to this case type. McCoy joined the court's Desert bench in July 2002 to hear family law. He and his wife, Chris, are very proud of their son, Daryl, who is a sophomore at the United States Air Force Academy. In his spare time, Commissioner McCoy enjoys playing golf.

Schwartz – was the court's choice to fill a commissioner vacancy this July when Commissioner Elisabeth Sichel was appointed to a judgeship. Schwartz received his JD in 1986 from McGeorge School of Law and a degree in Political Science from the University of Alberta (1981). While attending law school, Commissioner Schwartz also obtained a degree in International Legal Studies and was named a finalist for a Moot Court Oral Award. Before serving as a court commissioner, Mr. Schwartz had a private legal practice (Johnston and Schwartz) that specialized in criminal defense. During his first four years with this firm, Schwartz also handled civil litigation. Previous legal assignments included serving as a Deputy Public Defender in Riverside, an Associate Attorney for a major civil firm in San Francisco, and as an Associate Barrister in Alberta, Canada. Schwartz is an avid sports fan. He likes to watch and participate in all sports activities.